(ख) इस संबंध में प्रसार भारती/संबंधित संघों के साथ क्रमानुसार बातचीत/विचार-विमर्श प्रगति पर है।

सूचना और प्रसारण माध्यमों को स्वायत्तता

2288. श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार सूचना और प्रसारण माध्यमों को स्वायत्तता देने के प्रस्ताव पर पुनः विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार नकवी): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Decline in revenue earnings of Doordarshan

2289. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revenue of Doordarshan is going down *vis-a-vis* the revenue of other private TV operators; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether there is a conspiracy between private TV operators and certain officials of DD to produce low quality programmes to benefit the private TV operators; and

(c) what steps Government propose to initiate to improve the revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) As authentic revenue earning figures of private broadcasting medium are not available with the Government, no comparison can be made with reference to the revenue earnings of Doordarshan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati has reported that constant efforts are being made by Doordarshan to boost its commercial revenue earnings. In order to achieve this objective, Doordarshan has taken steps to telecast quality programmes, opening up of more commercial Kendras, to rationalise the commercial advertisement charges, to give incentives to advertisers to make Doordarshan more attractive etc.

Advertisement Earning of Doordarshan and All India Radio

2290. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earned by the Doordarshan/All India Radio through advertisements, separately during each of the last three years; year-wise;

(b) the amount spent on maintenance/recoveries of these stations during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether the construction works carried out in the said stations during the above period have been completed; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BAROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) The amount earned by Doordarshan and All India Radio through advertisements during last three years is as under:—

(Rupees in crores)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Doordarshan	430.13	588.24	490.15
All India Radio	80.97	79.69	93.44

(b) The amount spent on maintenance/renovations of the stations during the last three years is as under:—

(Rupees in crores)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
All India Radio	1118.42	1505.32	1631.24
Doordarshan	649.71	539.89	748.00

(c) and (d) The mintenance works carried by Doordarshan Kendras/All India Radio Stations under the head "Minor works" are of short gestation period and are generally completed during the year in which funds are allotted. Records of such minor works is not maintained centrally.

Uplinking and Regulation of Cable Operators

2291. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on second stage uplinking and regulation of cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BAROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) No Sir. Action has been initiated to expand the scope of uplinking in its second phase and amending certain provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 with a view, interalia, to bring the programmes of "free to air" foreign satellite channels also within the ambit of the prescribed programme/advertising code of the Cable law when transmitted through a cable opeator.

Ban on Vulgar Advertisements

2292. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the bad effect on society and youth, Government propose to impose a ban on vulgar and bad taste advertisments in print and electronic media;

(b) if so, the deails in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BAROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) With regard to advertisement, All India Radio and Doordarshan strictly adhere to their Code of Commercial Advertisements. Under this Code, no advertisement having indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment is permitted. The programmes of foreign satellite channels are uplinked from outside the country and, therefore, do not presently fall within the ambit of the Indian laws, unless decoders are required for their reception. However, Government have initiated steps to bring certain amendments to the Cable Law to ensure that cable operators who re-transmit free to air channels also will have to adhere to the programme and advertising codes of the Cable Law.

In matters relating to the Press, the Government pursues a policy of non-interference so as to uphold the freedom of the Press. The Press Council of India, an autonomous statutory body set up to preserve the freedom of the Press and improve the standards of Newspapers and news agencies in India has, however, laid down norms of journalistic ethics which, inter-alia, include norms relating to obscenity and vulgarity to be eschewed in print media.